

The Answers to the severall Objections, made against the Lights for the Goodwin Sands, by Informations from the Westerne Ports, made to some of the Members of the Honorable Assembly of the HOUSE of COMMONS,

I. Objection. That Strangers doe forbear to Trade in the Western Ports, in regard of the greatnesse of the charge, suggested publickly to be above 4000.
pound a year, upon Subject and Stranger.

Answer.



It is evident that for these Reasons following, the Dutchmen did forbear the Westerne Ports, and not for the charge of the Lights.
1. A restraint of buying victuall in the Westerne Ports, which was done, by Order from the Boord, for the better accommodation of the Kings Fleets in the late expeditions for *Cales*, the *Isle of Rhee*, and the *Rockell*.
2. The Letters of Mart, granted to Captaine *Bradshaw*, to feize upon all Dutch Shipping he could finde, in any of the Westerne Ports.
3. An Imposition of 1 penny per Tun, granted in favour of the Towne of *Plimouth*, upon all Dutch Shipping for the reparation of their Harbour, at *Catmon*.
4. The late practise they have found, to go in great Fleets, accompanied with 5, or 6 men of warre, doth make them forbear to come in any of the Westerne Ports, and not the charge of the Lights, which (being brought to an equality with the Kings Subjects,) they will never put in Ballance, with the safety of their Lives, Goods, and Shipping.
5. If the greatnesse of the charge, had caused the Dutchmen to forbear the Westerne Ports, the abatement of the one halfe of the duty allowed, two yeares agoe, had drawne them backe againe to these Roads, whereby it is manifest, that such strangers, as have no Trade with *England*, will never come in any of these Harbours of *Falmouth*, and *Plimouth*, unless they be driven in by the *Dunkirkers*, by tempestuous weather, and by contrary windes, which will not suffer them to goe out againe to Sea, at their pleasure.

The Strangers who have an ordinary Trade with the Kings Subjects, have never paid but two pence per Tun for both voyages, outwards, and homewards bound, for the maintenance of the three Lighthouses for the *Goodwin Sands*, which hath beene constantly payed, by all the Merchants of *London*, by those of the *Trinity house*, and by all other Seamen in the Kingdome, for one Light at *Dunghemess*, for the space of 27. yeares.

The double duty formerly taken from strangers, that have no Trade with the Kings Subjects, who (for once paying,) passe sixe times through the Channell, without any payment at all, was taken away two yeares agoe, by a motion made by the Lord Admirall at the Boord, and (by consequence,) the ground of any complaint from the Inhabitants of *Falmouth* and *Plimouth* whose Informations (though they were true) are not (under favour) to be ballanced, with the generall benefit which the Kings Navy, the whole Navigation of both Kingdomes, and Confederates, doe finde, by the usefullnesse of the Lights, which might have saved the *Cocke*, and the *Mome*, and three great Shippes of *Dover*, and *Alborough*, call away upon the *Goodwin Sands*, for want of Lights, upon the *Foreland*, valued at 400000. pound, besides the losse of Mens lives, which is unvaluable. And many other Lamentable Wrecks happened to the Kings Subjects, and Strangers, before these Lights were erected.

II. Objection. That it is a Monopoly.

Answer. If the sole power of erecting Lighthouses, had beene in the Person of Sir *John Meldrum*, restraining all others to performe the like Service, the plea had beene good. But in regard, that Sir *Edward Howard*, Sir *William Erskine*, Sir *James Violet*, Sir *Thomas Bassell*, and others have erected Light houses; and that such Monopolies as bring benefit to the Common Wealth, have beene allowed: Sir *John Meldrum* doth submit himselfe to the advised Considerations of this Honorable Assembly.

III. Objection. That the Charge is excessive, and disproportionable to the merit of the Service.

Answer. The richest Merchant, and the greatest Ship in *London*, hath not paid above five pound in the whole year, for one Ship and Goods, and the Total of the charge upon Subject and Stranger, hath not exceeded 566. pound a yeare, out of which (the Annuall ordinary charge, for the maintenance of the Service being deducted, which will extend to 580. pound a yeare,) there is a remainder of 356. pound payable to these Inconveniencies following.

First, To the abatement of the one halfe of what Strangers have formerly paid.
Secondly, To the increase of a third part of the charge in Coales, by keeping the Lights burning openly in the Ayre, which before were kept in close Lanthornes of glasse.
Thirdly, To the charge of all casuall accidents by fire, and other reparations, which in one yeare did extend to 250. pound, by the burning downe of one of the Light houses, the like mischance having lately fallen out, at the North Foreland.

Fourthly, To the diminution of the benefit by the Trade at *Dover*, which (having of late time yeelded: 140. pound a yeare, will not now yeeld ten pound a yeare) if it were not for the Lights, it would be more than double.

As concerning the merit of the Service, the frequent losses, both of his Majesties Subjects and Strangers in few yeares, before the Lights were erected, and the safety of all Shipping, Mens lives, and goods of Subj. & Strangers, since the erection thereof, doth (under favour) shew the invalidity of this Objection.

IV. Objection. That the Service may be performed by the Trinity House, or some other Seamen, at easier rates.

Answer. The proofes in the Parliament, 19. Jac. of 22. good Ships call away, at *Stamport* and *Casterne* Lights, kept by the Trinity House, in the space of foure yeares, and the safety of all Shipping, mens lives and goods, for the space of 25 yeares at *Winterton*, by the care of Sir *John Meldrum*, doth make a reall difference; no man daring to complaine of any neglect by the Trinity House, in regard of the power they have over all the Seamen in this Kingdome, being (for the greatest part) Brothers of their Corporation, nor against any other, whom they doe protect, as may appeare manifestly, by the Petition of 130. English and Scottish Masters of Shipping, desiring the Light at *Dunghemess*, (kept by Master *Bullocke*) to be rather extinguished, then not better kept, and yet no man will complaine, for feare of offending the Trinity House, who have a rent of 20. pound a yeare paid them by Master *Bullocke*, whereas on the other side, Sir *John Meldrum* can not expect any connivance from the Masters of Shipping, if by the least neglect, they should suffer any losse.

As concerning the offer to performe the Service at easier rates, it is remitted to the judicious Consideration of this Honourable Assembly, what inconveniencies might follow, if such a gap were opened. That after the performance of a publique Service, suitable to the Trust, whereby the Commonwealth hath, and daily doth find, a great benefit: And after the spending of much time, and charge, any envious Adversarie (upon a pretext, to performe that Service at easier rates) should enjoy the benefit of anothers endeavours; since it cannot be doubted; but the Masters of Shipping will pay as much to the Trinity House, or to their fellow Seamen, as they have voluntarily subscribed to pay to Sir *Edward Howard*, for one Light, and to Sir *John Meldrum* for five Lighthouses at *Winterton* & *Orfordness*, & for three Lighthouses neere the *Goodwin Sands*.

V. Objection. That Shipwrecks have beene more frequent since the Lights have beene erected, then before.

Answer. That there is no colour nor proofes of any Wrecke since the Lights were erected: It is true, there were two Dutch ships call away, by their owne neglect, attested by Sir *Henry Mervin*, and made good by the Attestation of 19. Dutch Marriners, saved by the benefit of the North Foreland Light, but on the contrary, it will appeare, by the subscriptions of above 160. of the next Inhabitants to the *Goodwin Sands*, that there have beene none at all, (these two excepted) and that the Shipwrecks both of his Majesties Subjects and Strangers, were frequent, before the Lights were erected.

VI. Objection. That Sir *John Meldrum* hath had by a bargain made for *Winterton* Lights, 10000. pound, which may be a competent reward for any Service he hath done.

Answer. That the satisfaction paid to Sir *William Erskine*, Master Doctor *Wellwood*, and to the Executors of Sir *Henry Helmer*, was more then 7000. pound for their severall Interests, and the bargain he had, did not exceed 8500. pound, which cannot (under favour) be accounted a great reward, to any that hath spent 35. yeares of his time in this publique Service, done to the Common wealth, without ever having had any other benefit whatsoever.

Besides, the charge upon the Subject for *Winterton*, and *Orfordness* Lights, is grounded upon the voluntary Contribution of the greatest part of all the Masters of Shipping, trading upon the North Coast, who doe not onely approve of the conveniency, and necessity of these five Light houses at *Winterton*, and *Orfordness*, but (upon a mutuall bargain, made on both sides) have certified under their hands, that (being freed of any charge for the Lights at *Orfordness*,) they pay the duty allowed most willingly, and so cannot (under favour) be accounted either as an effect of the Kings bounty towards Sir *John Meldrum*, or of any prejudice to the Common Wealth, which (if there be a Computation made of the great losses sustained, by the Kings Subjects and Strangers, before the Lights were erected, and of the benefit, and safety, by the Service) hath had a Twentifold more benefit, then hath beene payed.

VII. Objection. That as there was divers Masters of Shipping, that stood for the Lights, so there were others against them.

Answer. The Masters of Shipping that opposed the Lights, are all Brothers of the Trinity House, not exceeding twelve in number, who (to wrest the Service from Sir *John Meldrum*, who hath in former Parliaments, and in this, discovered their neglect, their abuses done to their fellow Seamen and Strangers, by Shipwrecks at *Casterne*, by exactions of seven pence per Tun, (according to the burthen of the Ship,) from all Strangers, trading in the River of *Thames*, and by exacting, 4, 6, and 12. pence a month, out of every Master, every under Officer, and every poore Marriner their monethly wages) will out of malice suggest any thing, howsoever unjust and imprecable; As may appeare as well by the late Petition exhibited to this Honourable Assembly, by the Masters of Shipping, by a former Petition exhibited to the King, allowing both of the necessity, and charge of the Lights, as by the certificates of Sir *Robert Mansell*, Sir *John Pennyton*, Sir *Henry Mervin*, Sir *Henry Munnaring*, and of all the Captaines, Masters, and Pilots of his Majesties Navy, and of other Masters of Shipping, who pay the charge out of their purses, who have (in presence of the Honourable Assembly of the House of Commons,) not only testified the safety of the Prince Elector, but also of their owne Shipping, Lives and Goods, by the benefit of the Lights, as also by the subscriptions of 35. *Dover* Masters of Shipping, (who at the beginning) did oppose the Lights and of 250. other Masters of Shipping, and Barks throughout the Kingdome, who all doe acknowledge the necessity of the Lights for the *Goodwin Sands*.

VIII. Objection. That the duty is taken from such Masters of Shipping, as doe not come by the Lights, but fall short, and have no use thereof.

Answer. There was never any proofe made of any Master of Ship, (that falling short of the Lights) did pay the duty, if there be any such, can make it appeare, he shall have twenty for one restored to him. The duty hath beene taken onely from such Shipping as goe by the *Goodwin Sands*, in the light of the Lights, which (whether they come within 5. miles, or 10. miles of the *Goodwin Sands*;) have a like use of the Lights, they being seene in *Calice* Road, neere to *Dunkirk*, and at *Dunghemess*, which is 22. miles from the *Foreland* Light, they being set up at a certaine, and constant charge, for the use of all Shipping, that cannot goe by them, in the Night time, without making use thereof, as appeareth by the late Petition exhibited.

In Consideration of the Premises, and that it doth evidently appeare, that it is rather the envy, and malice of the Trinity House, then the Inconvenience, or charge of the Lights, which is repined at, Sir *John Meldrum* cannot but be confident, that in all actions of a ruinous nature, (tending to the prejudice of the Common Wealth,) may expect a deserved censure, so all business of a contrary Nature (whereby the Common Wealth hath, and will daily find, much benefit) shall have countenance, and protection, by the Justice, of this Honourable Assembly.

57 to 62 Medium
Light

